



BUILDING SAFETY DEPARTMENT

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YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR WAS NOT WORKING TODAY

In the year 2000, there were 3,420 deaths and 17,400 injuries as a result of fires in the home. In at least 35% of the fires, there was either an improperly maintained smoke detector or no smoke detector at all. Early warning is critical to survival. A properly installed and maintained smoke detector greatly increases the chance of survival.

If warning is not given, sleeping people have a very poor chance of escaping. You may think that you will wake up as smoke fills your room, but facts prove differently. The fact is that smoke and toxic gas from a fire tend to anesthetize you. A smoldering fire will fill a house or apartment so quickly that no one escapes.

The primary function of a smoke detector is early warning to sleeping people. An operable smoke detector is an effective and economical lifesaver.

An inoperable smoke detector is a violation of Minnesota State Law:

1. When the occupant is not the owner of the dwelling unit, the owner is responsible for maintenance of the smoke detector. Minnesota Statute 299F.362, Subd. 5
2. The occupant of a dwelling unit must inform the owner of a dwelling unit of a non-functioning smoke detector within 24 hours of discovering that the smoke detector in the unit is not functioning. Minnesota Statute 299F.362, Subd. 5a
3. An occupant who willfully disables a smoke detector or causes it to be non-functioning, resulting in damage or injury to person or property, is guilty of a misdemeanor. Minnesota Statute 299F.362, Subd. 6b

SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES !!
KEEP YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR OPERABLE AT ALL TIMES!

City of Rochester Housing Division of Building Safety
Fire Prevention Bureau

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